

BIRTH

THE P. & O. Company's s. s. Canton, from China, arrived in London yesterday afternoon.

This afternoon at the Happy Valley, C Company, Rifle Brigade, defeated H.M.S. Archer, in a football match, by 3 goals to nil.

A FOOTBALL match at the Happy Valley this afternoon between the Royal Engineers and the other Departmental Corps resulted in a win for the Engineers by 4 goals to 1.

A CHINESE soldier hailing from Kowloon City was brought before Capt. Hastings at the Magistracy this morning charged with having three counterfeit Mexican dollars in his possession. The shroff of the Magistracy proved that the coins were genuine, and the accused was discharged. In this

connection it may be mentioned that in a case of gambling tried before the same Magistrate it was stated that out of a sum of \$1.04 seized in the gambling den only six cents proved to be genuine. Taking this as a criterion of the state of the currency in Hongkong there must be a considerable amount of counterfeit coins in circulation.

THERE is much activity again in the Royal Naval Dockyard, and in several departments overtime is being worked. H.M.S. *Leander* will require an extensive overhaul before she rejoins Admiral Sir E. Fremantle's squadron in the North. Her

The twin screw cruiser *Pique* (second class), 8 guns, 3600 tons and 9000 horse power, is coming out to the China Station to relieve the *Leander*. Though of less tonnage the *Pique* is a much faster vessel than the *Leander* and of a better type. The tendency

of the Admiralty authorities appears to be to keep the China Station strong in fast cruisers of a powerful pattern. At no time in British naval history have there been so many fine ships on this station.

SEVERAL important changes are likely to be made in the Police Force during the next month. Mr F. H. May, Captain Superintendent, we understand, says as here is a

few weeks; Mr George Horspool, Deputy Captain Superintendent, has sent in his resignation and leaves early in March for England; and Mr John Mathieson, Chief Inspector, is also going on leave about the

same date. It is rather singular that the three officers at the head of the Police Force should be leaving the Colony simultaneously, and we should imagine some rearrangement will be made by the Executive

Council. Mr Horspool, who was the former Chief Inspector, having served for a very long term of years in the Police Force, returned to the Colony from long leave about a year ago; and since their return Mrs

Horspool has suffered from ill-health. Mr Horspool's retirement will be a great loss to the Police Force.

for KEUREK having failed to inform us, there is considerable uncertainty as to which of the many *Elbes* it is that has been sunk in the disastrous collision in the North Sea. It is generally believed to be the steamer of that name belonging to the Norddeutscher Lloyd, in which case the *Elbe* would

probably have been on a voyage from Europe to America with a large complement of passengers. From the official records, we find that the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamer *Elbe* was built in Glasgow

in 1881 by Messrs J. Elder and Co. and registered at Bremen. She has a gross tonnage of 4510, net 2810; length, 418.2; breadth, 44.9; depth, 35.4; compound engines, 1000 h.p. The *Elbe* of the Royal

Mail Steam Packet Co., registered at Glasgow, was also built by Messrs J. Elder and Co. eleven years earlier. She is 3093 tons gross, and 1732 net; length, 350; breadth, 40.2; depth, 33.3; triple

A few days ago we published a paragraph, taken from a Home paper, stating that the Rev. Dr Griffith John, the veteran missionary of Hankow, had accepted the Pro-

identship of the Memorial College of Brecon for the current year, that he had promised conditionally, to address the students at the annual Commemoration Day in June, and subsequently to address

the General Assembly at Pwllheli of the Congregational Union of Wales. Since the publication of the paragraph, we have been favoured with the perusal of a letter from Shanghai, to a mutual friend in Hongkong, in which letter it is stated that

Dr John has given an imperative 'No' to the request to go Home this spring. This will be a great disappointment to the Society and his friends at Home. They have been counting most strongly on his

being the hero of the day and have been sending hosts of invitations to all quarters and receiving funds to provide him with a residence during his stay in Wales. Dr John has resolved to wait till the war is over

and may not go home even till next year. The writer of the letter, who is a strong personal friend of Dr. John, says he is not altogether surprised at the decision of the veteran missionary. 'They have made so

he much fun about him that he is reasonably frightened at it, and has wisely made up his mind that he is not to be lionised in that way. The demands made on returned missionaries seem to be overwhelming, and

though it may be necessary for the Society's sake, yet man is human, and our old missionaries would far rather remain where they are than go the rounds incessantly telling about our work and the call

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